

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 6 September 1990

## *The week in statistics ...*

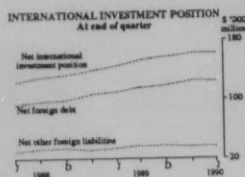
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IAN CASTLES  
Australian Statistician

## Preliminary figures show slight reduction in level of foreign debt

Australia's net foreign liabilities at 30 June 1990 totalled \$161,820 million. This was an increase of \$330 million, or 0.2 per cent, on the position at the end of the March quarter.

Net foreign debt of \$124,528 million accounted for over three quarters of the level of net foreign liabilities at 30 June. This was slightly down on the previous quarter due largely to capital transactions (net capital outflow) and exchange rate movements (appreciation of \$A), partly offset by other changes.



AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION  
\$A thousand million

	Level at end of	
	March 1990	June 1990
Foreign investment in Australia		
Borrowing from abroad	157.9	157.1
Other investment	96.2	95.8
Total	254.1	252.9
Australian investment abroad	92.7	91.1
Net international investment position		
Net foreign debt	125.0	124.5
Net other liabilities	36.5	37.3
Total	161.5	161.8

The ratio of Australia's net international investment position to gross domestic product (GDP) at 30 June 1990 was 43.9 per cent, up 0.9 of a percentage point on the ratio at 30 June 1989 but down 0.5 of a percentage point on the ratio at 31 March 1990.

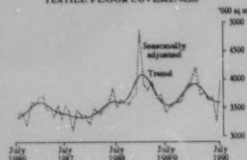
The ratio of net foreign debt to GDP was 33.8 per cent, up 1.2 percentage points on a year earlier but down 0.6 of a percentage point on the ratio at 31 March 1990.

Net investment income payable abroad during the June quarter was \$3,950 million, down \$131 million, or 3 per cent, on the amount payable in the March quarter.

For the year ended June quarter 1990, the ratio of net investment income payable abroad to exports of goods and services was 25.5 per cent, a rise of 0.6 of a percentage point on the ratio recorded for the year ended March quarter 1990. The ratio of net interest payable on foreign debt to exports of goods and services for the year ended June 1990 was 19.8 per cent, compared with 18.9 per cent for the year ended a quarter earlier.

For further information, order the publication *Foreign Investment, Australia, Preliminary (5307.0)* or contact Terry Digwood on (06) 252 6110.

TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS



## Manufacturing output: ambivalent signs continue

Ten of the twenty-five commodities covered by the monthly survey of manufacturing recorded increased seasonally adjusted production between June and July 1990.

The largest percentage increases in manufacturing output in July came in textile floor coverings (up 21.7% following an 11.9% fall the previous month), clothes washing machines (up 13.4% on top of an increase of 14% between May and June) and wool woven fabric (up 13.0% following an 11.3% increase).

The major falls occurred in the production of confectionery other than chocolate based (a 21.6% decrease which more than offset an 11% increase the previous month), cotton woven fabric (down 13.5%) and rotary type petrol lawn mowers (down 11.4%, continuing the falling production measured since March 1990).

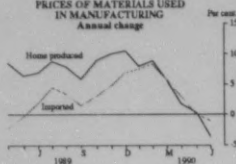
The latest month's figures do not help the assessment of overall trends. In the trend estimates ten of the commodities are showing increased production, eleven have falling production; for the other four, the trend remains flat.

PRODUCTION OF COMMODITIES RECORDING SIGNIFICANT  
MONTHLY CHANGE  
Seasonally adjusted

Commodity	Unit	Production in July 1990	Percentage change from previous month
Increase—			
Textile floor coverings	'000 sq m	3961	21.7
Clothes washing machines	'000	36	13.4
Wool woven fabric	'000 sq m	709	13.0
Decrease—			
Confectionery, other than chocolate based	tonne	4792	-21.6
Cotton woven fabric	'000 sq m	3065	-13.5
Lawn mowers	'000	16	-11.4

For further information, order the publication *Production Statistics, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0), contact Kevin Squair on (06) 252 5558.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED  
IN MANUFACTURING  
Annual change



## Further decrease in prices of materials used in manufacturing

The price indexes of materials used in manufacturing industries decreased by 1.9 per cent in June 1990, the third consecutive month that prices have fallen.

The monthly decrease was again largely a result of lower prices for crude petroleum (the index does not yet reflect increases in crude petroleum prices recorded over recent weeks), and for sheep and lambs.

The annual change in the index fell 2.8 per cent in June, the first annual decrease recorded since February 1989.

The table below shows the difference in these price movements for imported and home produced materials.

PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, JUNE 1990

	Percentage change from	
	Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Source of material —		
Imported	-0.4	-1.1
Home produced	-2.7	-3.6
All manufacturing	-1.9	-2.8

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)*, or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

## July registrations up — but trend still down

Registrations of new motor vehicles increased by 11.8 per cent to 54,999 in July after seasonal adjustment.

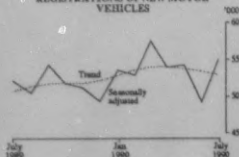
Cars and station wagons rose by 14.1 per cent to 44,736, while other vehicles increased by 3.3 per cent to 10,613. The increases followed a sharp decline in the previous month, and the trend estimate of total registrations continued the decline of recent months with a fall of 0.9 per cent.

Nevertheless, seasonally adjusted the July 1990 figure was 5.4 per cent higher than July 1989 registrations.

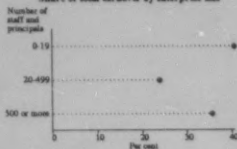
Note that due to computer processing problems in the South Australian Motor Vehicle Registry, South Australia has provided an estimate for July rather than actual registrations.

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary (9301.0)*, or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

REGISTRATIONS OF NEW MOTOR  
VEHICLES



ACCOUNTING SERVICES INDUSTRY 1987-88  
Share of total turnover by enterprise size



ACCOUNTING ENTERPRISES, 1987-88

Employment size Number of staff and principals	Number of enterprises
0-19	5,777
20-499	262
500 or more	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,048</b>

## New survey accounts for accountants

Accounting enterprises employed about 49,000 people in Australia in 1987-88. The 6,050 enterprises in the industry generated turnover of \$2,334 million that year, mostly in the form of fees for professional services.

Net operating surplus (profit before interest and tax) for the industry was \$497 million. Operating surplus was about 23 per cent of turnover for unincorporated firms and about 12 per cent for the companies in the industry.

Statistics from a new ABS survey of the accounting services industry also show that:

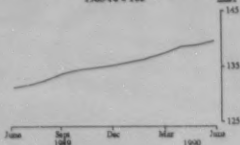
- ☐ the nine largest enterprises in the industry (those employing 500 or more persons) together accounted for 25 per cent of employment and generated 36 per cent of the industry's turnover.
- ☐ average net operating surplus for the principals of unincorporated accounting enterprises was about \$57,000 (not including the amounts they receive from their service enterprises).
- ☐ females comprise about 50 per cent of people employed in the industry but only about 7 per cent of nearly 8,000 principals (partners or sole proprietors) of accounting enterprises.
- ☐ New South Wales contributed 41 per cent of the turnover in Australia compared to this State's 34 per cent share of the population.

ANALYSIS OF TURNOVER: ACCOUNTING ENTERPRISES, 1987-88  
Per cent

	Companies	Sole proprietorships, partnerships
Turnover	100	100
From which is paid —		
Staff expenses	55	44
Occupancy expenses	7	7
Vehicles and equipment expenses	7	7
Other operating expenses	19	19
Total expenses	88	77
Leaving —		
Net operating surplus	12	23

The survey results are found in the publication *Accounting Services Industry, Australia (8668.0)*. More detailed statistics will be released later this year. To be advised when this information becomes available contact Peter White on (06) 252 5633.

HOUSE BUILDING MATERIAL PRICES  
1985-86 = 100



## Steady price increases in house building materials

Prices for materials used in house building increased by 0.5 per cent in June 1990. The main price increases in June were for structural timber, ready mixed concrete, reinforcing steel and clay bricks.

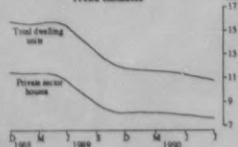
Over the year to June 1990 prices for house building materials increased by 6.3 per cent. This continued the downward trend in the annual rate evident since October 1988.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING, JUNE 1990  
Percentage change

City	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.8	6.5
Melbourne	0.4	5.0
Brisbane	0.5	7.1
Adelaide	0.4	7.0
Perth	0.6	7.8
Hobart	0.2	6.3
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.5	6.3
Canberra	0.2	6.0

For further information, order the publication *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)*, or contact Kim Tobin on (06) 252 6198.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED  
Trend estimate



## Dwelling unit approvals falling again

Both private houses and total dwelling unit approvals are trending downwards after a brief period of stabilisation which followed the steep fall between March and October 1989.

The number of private sector houses approved in July 1990 fell by 5.3 per cent from June, in seasonally adjusted terms. The 7,460 private sector houses approved in July (seasonally adjusted) is the lowest number recorded in a single month since June 1987.

Total dwelling units approved also fell in July 1990 (by 5.0% seasonally adjusted) to their lowest level since June 1987.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, JULY 1990

	Private sector houses		Total dwelling units	
	No.	Percentage change on previous month	No.	Percentage change on previous month
Original	7,724	-1.6	10,859	-3.3
Seasonally adjusted	7,460	-5.3	10,452	-5.0
Trend estimate	7,626	-0.8	10,749	-1.8

Seasonally adjusted, the value of total building (residential and non-residential) approved in July 1990 was \$1,723.0 million, 14.5 per cent lower than the June figure of \$2,015.1 million.

For further information, order the publication Building Approvals, Australia (8731.0), or contact Paul Seville on (06) 252 6067.

## Age at marriage keeps climbing

In 1989, there were 117,176 marriages registered in Australia. This figure was only marginally greater than 1988 registrations (116,816), and actually represents a drop of one per cent in the marriage rate.

The 1989 marriage figures show that whatever their marital status, Australians are getting married at a later age than before. In 1989, the median age at first marriage for men was 26.3 years, compared with 26.1 in 1988 and 24.4 years in 1981. For women, the 1989 median age at first marriage was 24.2 years compared with 24.0 in 1988 and 22.1 years in 1981.

Age at remarriage also increased. In 1989, the median age at remarriage for divorced men was 39.3, compared with 38.9 in 1988 and 36.0 years in 1981. The median age at remarriage for divorced women in 1989 was 35.6 years. This figure is also up on the 1988 and 1981 levels of 35.3 and 32.9 respectively.

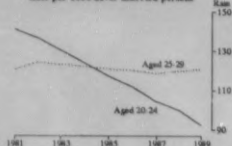
The time interval to remarriage after divorce is similar for both sexes, but widowed men are remarriage much sooner than their female counterparts. For widowed males, the time interval for 63 per cent of those remarriage in 1989 was less than 5 years, with the largest number remarriage two years after their previous marriage had ended. For widowed females, the time interval for 43 per cent of those remarriage was less than 5 years from the end of their previous marriage.

PERSONS RE-MARRYING IN 1989  
Per cent

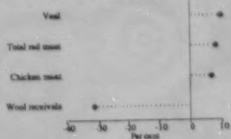
Time involved (years)	Divorced		Widowed	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Less than 1	17.7	15.6	3.0	1.6
1-2	34.8	33.4	36.3	19.6
3-4	16.4	17.1	23.4	21.3
5-9	21.1	22.3	23.5	32.3
10 and over	9.7	11.2	13.4	24.8
Not stated	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

For further information, order the publication Marriages, Australia (3306.0) or contact Bruce Illingworth on (06) 252 6755.

FIRST MARRIAGES FOR WOMEN  
Rate per 1000 never married persons



SELECTED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS  
Change July 1989 to July 1990



## Veal bolsters red meat production

Total red meat production fell by 0.7 per cent to 220,830 tonnes in July 1990 despite rises in veal and lamb production.

Compared with July 1989, however, livestock slaughterings increased in all categories and total red meat production was 8.2 per cent higher.

Veal production in July increased by 23.3 per cent over June 1990 to 4,042 tonnes. There was an increase of 33.7 per cent in the number of calves slaughtered, with Victoria contributing 86.3 per cent of the increase.

Lamb slaughterings also increased 4.4 per cent while sheep, pigs and cattle all recorded a decrease.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS  
Percentage change

		From June to July 1990	From July 1989 to July 1990
Cattle slaughtered	Number	-2.2	7.7
Calves slaughtered	Number	33.7	5.0
Sheep slaughtered	Number	-5.6	23.3
Lambs slaughtered	Number	4.4	2.6
Pigs slaughtered	Number	-3.9	3.2
Veal	Tonnes	23.3	10.1
Total red meat production	Tonnes	-0.7	8.2
Chickens slaughtered	Number	12.9	0.6
Chicken meat produced	Tonnes	12.4	7.1
Taxable wool receivables	Tonnes	-5.0	-31.9

For further information, order the publication *Livestock Products, Australia* (7215.0), or contact Bronwyn Brown on (06) 252 5337.

## Area of farms and crops continues to decline

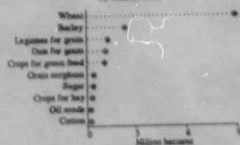
The total area of Australian farms fell by 2.5 per cent in 1989-90 to 455 million hectares compared with 467 million hectares in 1988-89.

The area sown to pastures and grasses remained relatively stable at 30.2 million hectares, but the area under crops fell by 3 per cent to 17 million hectares.

Among the major movements:

- ☐ the area of oilseeds fell by 37 per cent largely due to a 58 per cent fall in sunflower seeds
- ☐ the area of legumes for grain fell 13 per cent with field peas falling 27 per cent
- ☐ the area of cereals for grain fell by only 1 per cent with grain sorghum down 35 per cent, oats down 13 per cent and barley up 8 per cent and wheat up one per cent

AREA OF SELECTED CROPS  
31 March 1990





- ☐ the area planted to cotton increased by 12 per cent to 217 thousand hectares
- ☐ the numbers of cattle and calves, and sheep and lambs increased by 1 per cent and 4 per cent respectively
- ☐ numbers of sheep and lambs shorn increased by 12 per cent and wool production increased by 8 per cent.

LAND USE  
Year ended 31 March 1990

	'000 hectares	Percentage change from 1989 to 1990
Area of —		
Crops	16,968	- 3.2
Sown pastures and grasses	30,226	0.1
Total area of farms	455,415	- 2.5

For further information, order the publication *Selected Agricultural Commodities, Australia, Preliminary (7112.0)*, or contact Penelope Cooke on (06) 252 5300.

## Further fall in export prices

Export prices fell by 1.0 per cent in June 1990, the second successive decrease in the index.

About half of the items in the index recorded price decreases in June with the main decreases being for wheat and sugar. About 20 per cent of the items included in the index recorded price increases, with the main increase being for manganese ores and concentrates.

Over the year to June 1990 export prices increased by only 0.3 per cent, the smallest annual increase recorded since June 1986.

The table below shows the wide divergence in the price changes for the different commodities.

EXPORT PRICES, JUNE 1990  
Percentage change

Commodity	From previous month	From corresponding of previous year
Food and live animals	- 3.0	- 2.2
Crude materials	- 0.2	1.5
Mineral fuels	—	7.5
Animal and vegetable oils	—	- 10.5
Chemicals and other manufactures	- 1.0	- 2.9
All groups	- 1.0	0.3



## All the week's releases: 29 August to 4 September

### Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

#### ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616  
(06) 252 6627  
(06) 253 1404

#### ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski  
Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(06) 252 6101

#### General

- Statistics Weekly, 30 August 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
- Time Series Service on Magnetic Tape and Microfiche, June Qtr 1990 (Manual and choice of priced packages) (1334.0, 1335.0, 1336.0).  
*Previously: 1311.0*
- NIF-105 Model Data Base on Magnetic Tape and Microfiche, June Qtr 1990 (Manual and choice of priced packages) (1340.0, 1341.0, 1343.0)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, August 1990 (1305.1; \$12.50)
- Economic Indicators, NSW, August 1990 (1307.1; \$3.30)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., August 1990 (1303.2; \$8.50)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, August 1990 (1304.3; \$8.00)
- Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, August 1990 (1303.4; \$8.00)

#### Demography

- Australian Demographic Statistics, March Qtr 1990 (3101.0; \$10.00)
- Marriages, NSW, 1989 (3305.1; \$7.60) — *final issue*
- Age and Sex Distribution of Estimated Resident Population, Qld — Data on Floppy Disk — Technical Details and Explanatory Notes, June 1989 (3217.3; \$65.00)

#### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Exports and Imports, Aust.: Trade With Selected Countries and Major Country Groups, June Qtr 1990 (5422.0; \$16.25)
- Cash Management Trusts, Aust., July 1990 (5635.0; \$3.30)

#### Labour statistics and prices

- Career Paths of Tradespersons, Aust., 1989 (6243.0; \$12.50)
- Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, June Qtr 1990 (6403.0; \$5.00)
- Export Price Index, Aust., June 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
- Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, June 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., June 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)

#### Agriculture

- Livestock Products, Aust., July 1990 (7215.0; \$5.00)
- Agricultural Land Use and Selected Inputs, Qld, 1988-89 (7411.3; \$12.50)
- Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Qld, 1988-89 (7501.3; \$8.00)

#### Secondary industry and distribution

- Production Statistics, Aust., July 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)
- Production of Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, Aust., May 1990 (8357.0; \$5.00)
- Accounting Services Industry, Aust., 1987-88 (8668.0; \$8.00) — *new issue*
- Cleaning Services Industry, Aust., 1987-88 (8672.0; \$8.00) — *new issue*
- Building Approvals, Aust., July 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)
- Production Statistics, NSW, June 1990 (8304.1; \$5.00)
- Mining, NSW, 1988-89 (8401.1; \$8.10)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, January to March 1990 (8741.1; \$8.10)
- Building Approvals, Vic., July 1990 (8731.2; \$8.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., June 1990 (8741.2; \$8.00)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, June 1990 (8741.5; \$8.00)
- Building Approvals, NT, July 1990 (8731.7; \$5.50)

#### Transport

- Shipping and Air Cargo Commodity Statistics, Aust., December Qtr 1989 (9206.0; \$12.50)
- Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., July 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Vic., July 1990 (9303.2; \$6.00)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, July 1990 (9303.3; \$5.50)
- Bicycle Usage and Safety, WA, October 1989 (9215.5; \$13.50) — *new issue*

## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 18 September 1990

### September

- 6** The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary, August 1990  
(6202.0; \$8.50)
- 10** Quarterly Indexes of Manufacturing Production, Australia,  
June Quarter 1990 (8219.0; \$7.50)
- 12** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry,  
Australia, June 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)  
Retail Trade, Australia, July 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)  
Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements,  
Preliminary, June Quarter 1990 (8750.0; \$5.00)
- 13** Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and  
Hours Worked, June Quarter 1990 (5222.0; \$8.00)  
Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, May 1990  
(6302.0; \$8.50)
- 17** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, July 1990  
(5609.0; \$8.00)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to  
4 September 1990



Statistics Weekly  
6 September 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 90)*	10.1	-13.5	5.6	17.7	-5.3	-35.2	n.a.	n.a.	-2.4
Retail turnover (June 90) (trend estimate)	6.9	1.9	7.4	6.6	6.9	9.0	n.a.	12.0	5.7
New motor vehicle registrations (July 90)	11.8	-9.2	20.8	32.3	-17.1	n.a.	40.7	19.3	5.4
Number of dwelling unit approvals (July 90)	-3.8	-24.6	7.5	-9.2	-1.9	1.5	-28.9	7.4	-9.6
Value of total building work done (March qtr 90)	6.7	7.9	1.1	12.9	5.1	-4.0	30.9	-4.0	5.9
Employed persons (July 90)*	1.7	2.4	3.3	2.3	2.7	3.2	-0.4	3.3	2.4
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 90)	8.1	7.8	5.6	6.7	8.6	6.2	6.4	6.9	7.7
Average weekly earnings (full- time adult ordinary time) (May 90)	7.0	7.9	5.6	6.6	4.4	6.0	6.0	5.6	6.7
Population (March 90)	0.8	1.3	2.8	1.0	2.6	1.0	-0.1	2.0	1.5
Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Dec. qtr 89)	1.3	-2.7	-8.7	10.6	0.7	-11.2	-19.6	-8.5	-2.9

\* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)

				Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
Period							
<b>National production</b>							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 90	91,183	93,879	0.4	5.6
	— 1984-85 prices			62,511	64,562	-0.9	1.0
<b>Industrial activity</b>							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	June qtr 90	6,990	6,657	-5.3	-9.3
	— 1984-85 prices			5,288	5,030	-4.6	-12.7
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Six months to Dec. 90	14,807	n.a.	n.a.	-1.6
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	June 90	6,873	7,082	1.1	5.7
	— 1984-85 prices	"	June qtr 90	14,284	14,835	0.0	1.3
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	July 90	55,954	54,999	11.8	5.4
Dwelling unit approvals		"	July 90	10,859	10,452	-5.0	-13.7
Value of all building approvals		\$m		1,660	1,723	-14.5	-22.3
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Mar. qtr 90	6,922	7,562	-2.0	5.8
	— 1984-85 prices	"		4,429	4,839	-3.0	-2.3
Manufacturers' sales (e)		"	Mar. qtr 90	33,133	36,124	2.4	8.3
Expected manufacturers' sales (e)		"	Three months to June 90	36,461	n.a.	n.a.	6.3
<b>Labour</b>							
Employed persons (e)		'000	July 90	7,932.9	7,936.8	0.4	2.4
Unemployment rate †(e)		%	"	6.7	6.9	0.3	0.8
Participation rate †(e)		%	"	64.0	64.2	0.3	0.9
Job vacancies		'000	Feb. 90	60.9	56.1	-15.0	-15.9
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.4	1.4	-8.7	-3.5
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		June qtr 90	207.4	n.a.	1.6	7.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		June 90	116.6	n.a.	-1.9	-2.8
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		May 90	108.8	n.a.	0.1	5.3
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Mar. qtr 90	3,668	4,633	9.0	2.0
Average weekly earnings (Full time adults; ordinary time)		\$	May 90	534.50	n.a.	1.9	6.7
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>							
90-day bank bills †		% per annum	July 90	14.70	n.a.	-0.4	3.4
10-year Treasury bonds †				13.15	n.a.	-0.3	0.2
<b>Balance of payments</b>							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	July 90	4,124	4,343	14.4	10.0
Imports of merchandise		"	"	4,424	4,180	-9.8	2.7
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	-300	163	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (e)		"	"	-735	-175	39.4	74.6
Balance on current account (e)		"	"	-1,730	-1,232	21.0	28.5
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		June qtr 90	n.a.	104.9	1.7	-4.3
<b>Foreign investment</b>							
Net foreign debt		\$m	30 June 90	124,528	n.a.	-0.3	13.3
Net foreign liabilities		"		161,820	n.a.	0.2	11.4
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>							
\$US	per \$A		July 90	0.7926	n.a.	-1.9	4.5
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0			61.1	n.a.	0.0	4.3
<b>Other indicators</b>							
Population (resident at end of yr)		million	Mar. 90	17.0	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitors		'000	May 90	150	171	-2.3	11.4

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Thursday, 6 September 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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